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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fifty-second session
Agenda item 10

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

Joint written statement submitted by the Women's International Democratic Federation, World Federation of Democratic Youth, World Muslim Congress (category I), American Association of Jurists, General Arab Women Federation, International Association for the Defence of Religious Liberty, International Association of Democratic Lawyers, International League for the Rights and Liberation of Peoples, International Movement for Fraternal Union among Races and Peoples, International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, North South XXI, Pax Christi International, Union of Arab Jurists, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, World Movement of Mothers, World Young Women's Christian Association (category II), Centre Europe-Tiers Monde, Indian Movement Tupay Katari, International Educational Development, Movement against Racism and for Friendship Among Peoples, Women for Mutual Security and World Peace Council, non-governmental organizations on the Roster

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement, which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 126 (XLIV).

[15 April 1996]

GE.96-12409 (E)

APPEAL

concerning the embargo against Iraq

In accordance with the principles contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in the Charter of the United Nations, the International Covenants on Human Rights, Namely the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the provisions of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, the signatory non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council are deeply concerned over the violation of human rights resulting from the embargo imposed against Iraq and wish to recall that:

The embargo has been in force for more than six years, in spite of the fact that the reasons for the imposition of the embargo are removed.

It is the Iraqi civilian population that suffers the most, particularly the children. The number of deaths of children since the imposition of the embargo in 1990 has reached 560,000 according to the latest report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, that is, each year six times more than in 1990.

By its prolongation, the health and education systems and economic development have completely broken down, setting the country back to the pre-industrial age.

Consequently, the signatory non-governmental organizations, having already asked the Commission and the Sub-Commission at various times, again exhort this fifty-second session of the Commission on Human Rights to do everything in its power to help bring about the lifting of the embargo which cruelly affects the civilian population and is in direct violation of human rights and humanitarian law. We appeal in particular to the members of the Security Council to lift, as a start, the oil embargo in conformity with article 22 of resolution 687 (1991) of 3 April 1991, with which Iraq has complied. This would permit Iraq to acquire, in the first place, the vital products it needs for its population to survive.